

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Barnett House

other names/site number Big Spring; 60-440

2. Location

East side of U.S. 460/11, 1/3 mile south of junction with
street & number VA Route 631N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town Elliston

☒ vicinity

state Virginia

code VA

county Montgomery

code 121

zip code 24162

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
2	1 buildings
0	0 sites
0	0 structures
0	0 objects
2	1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and
Historic Resources of Montgomery CountyNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Other: single-pile center-passage plan

Late 19th and 20th century Revivals: Colonial
Revival

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Metal: tin

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The two-story single-pile center-passage house has a five-bay facade with nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows on the first floor and six-over-nine double-hung sash windows on the second floor. The central entrance consists of a double entry door surmounted by a fanlight with Gothic tracery. The doorway features three-panel doors, a flush paneled side reveal, and a reeded reveal in the arch. The windows are headed by splayed jack arches. A partially projecting brick chimney rises at each end. An integral one-story ell was raised to two stories in the early twentieth century, and the ell was extended with a lower roof at the same time. The brick work of the principal (west) facade and the north end is laid in Flemish bond, while the south end and rear are laid in four-course American bond. Most windows are equipped with early twentieth-century louvered blinds.

In the first quarter of the twentieth century the house underwent a radical transformation. A colossal Doric portico was added to the west front sheltering the central three bays. The pediment contains a circular window. A one-story porch extending through the two-story portico across the facade and around the north side of the house was also added. It also features Doric columns. At the time, the cornice and rake boards of the original house were replaced with a Colonial Revival cornice and projecting returned gable cornice. Pedimented dormers were added above the end bays flanking the new porch and the rear ell was raised to two stories and expanded. The interior features intact molded Federal window and door trim, six-panel doors, splayed flush window reveals, and Federal-style mantels. The mantel in the south room is enriched with a dentil molding and reeded pilasters. An open-stringer stair rises in the passage.

The outbuildings include a contributing stuccoed frame meathouse (east of the house) with elaborate early twentieth-century detailing, including a returned cornice in the gabled front, corner pilasters, and an eleven-panel door. A noncontributing mid-twentieth-century frame garage is located south of the house. The house is situated on a bluff overlooking the series of cress pools adjacent to the Big Spring.

☐ See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1808 - 1910

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Barnett House is eligible under criterion C as an outstanding example of an early nineteenth-century house form of large scale and fine detailing. The house was extensively altered during the early twentieth century to form one of the county's grandest Colonial Revival homes. Only two early nineteenth-century center-passage houses were identified in the reconnaissance survey of Montgomery County. Both are five-bay two-story brick structures located on the waters of the Roanoke River east of the Alleghany ridge. The house's alteration in the early twentieth century extends the period of significance to the first quarter of the twentieth century and its stylish transformation strengthened its prominence as a landmark in the Elliston community.

In 1767 James Barnett of Albemarle County settled in Montgomery County (Barnett). He purchased the farm surrounding the Big Spring from James Robertson, who settled there in 1762-64. (Northcross, Col. W. M. P.). Barnett's son David is credited with building the house in 1808, the year of his father's death. The Barnett descendants sold the house in 1855, when the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad passed through the area. The house passed through several owners until it was acquired by the family of Walter J. Biggs, a native of Norfolk. In 1890 Big Spring Depot became the boom town of Carnegie City--named after the steel magnate. The Pittsburg Development Company laid out the city with avenues and streets given impressive names like Pennsylvania and Pittsburg Avenues. The latter was to be the main street. In spite of a large sum of money raised at a sale of lots in 1890, the project failed. In many cases land was repossessed, and this was the case with the Big Spring farm which had been sold to the development company. At that time the town was renamed Elliston for prominent landowner Major William M. Ellis, who lived at the Madison farm (60- 565), part of this

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Barnett, David P. "The Barnett Family of Montgomery County". Typescript, 1976.
- Ellis, Billie Northcross. Interview, February, 1988.
- Helvey, Garnette. "History Lives at Big Spring". The Roanoke Times, March 2, 1969.
- Kegley, F. B. Kegley's Virginia Frontier. Roanoke: Southwest Virginia Historical Society, 1938.
- Northcross, Col. W. M. P. "Big Spring", brief typescript in possession of Billie N. Ellis.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than four acres.

UTM References

A 17 5680310 4118340
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point A on the east side of U.S. Route 11/460, 3/10 of a mile south of VA Route 631, proceeding east 265 feet to point B, thence south 137 feet to point C, thence west 15 feet to point D, thence south 208 feet to point E, thence west 250 feet to point F, thence north 345 feet along the east side of U.S. Route 11/460 to point of origin.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to include the house, outbuilding, domestic-related space surrounding the house, and the spring fronting on U.S. Route 11/460.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gibson Worsham date June 1988
organization Gibson Worsham, Architect telephone (703) 552-4730
street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs state Virginia zip code 24073
city or town Christiansburg

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Prehistoric and Historic
Resources of Montgomery County
Barnett House, 60-440

Section number 8 Page 1

submission.

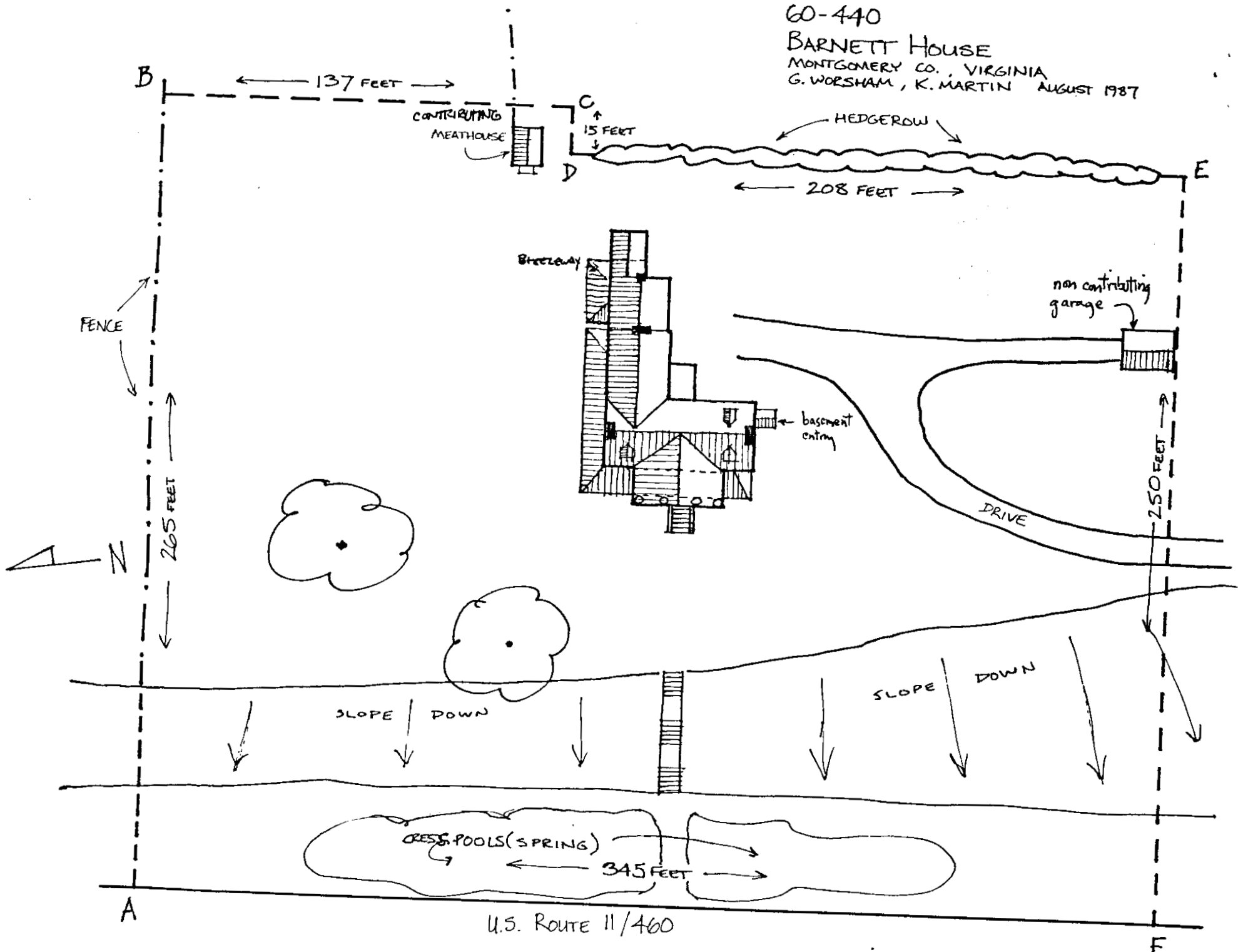
In 1907 Captain "Black" Barger, who lived at nearby Walnut Grove (60-452), purchased the farm for his daughter and her husband, O. N. Moomaw. Moomaw took advantage of the Big Spring in front of his house by building a series of eighteen lakes designed to raise watercress. Wooden walkways, used to roll wheelbarrows of cress to the packing house, divided the lakes. At the packing house (now gone) the cress was packed in burlap bags and ice and shipped north for use as salad on ocean liners (Helvey). Moomaw altered and added to the house in 1910, giving it its present form (Ellis, B. N.).

60-440

BARNETT HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., VIRGINIA

G. WORSHAM, K. MARTIN AUGUST 1987



0 10 20 40 60

4122000m E

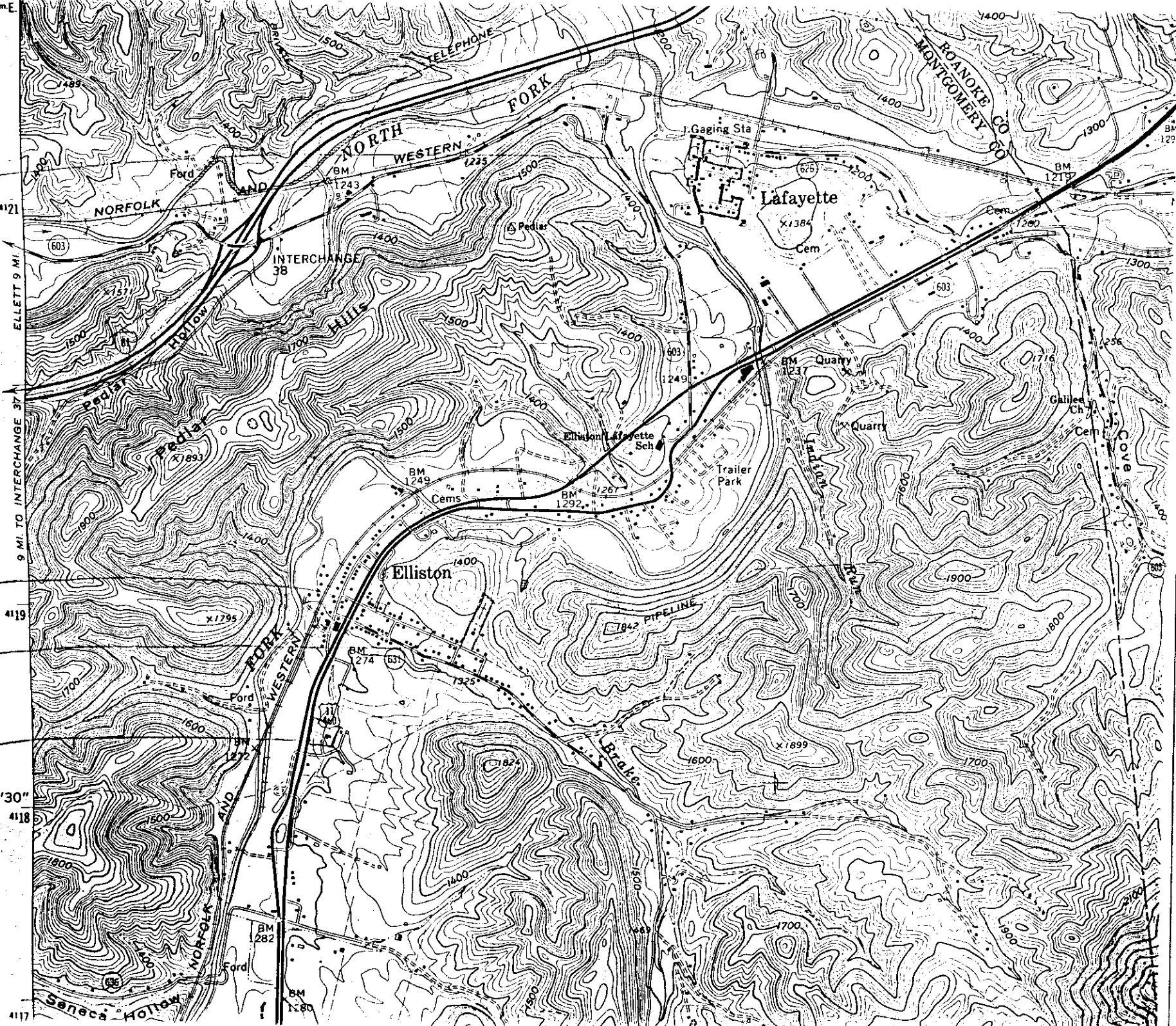
YETTE
ORIC DISTRICT

59900 4120930
69870 4121270
70120 4121130
70140 4120890

MEY CALLAWAY
HOUSE
568270 4118960
SPRING BAPTIST
CHURCH
568840 4118720

ARNETT HOUSE
568000 4118340

ELLISTON
QUAD



ELLETT 9 MI.

9 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 37

4119

12'30"

4118

4117